

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 2005

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Senator Schauer Applauds Governor's Announcement of Jackson Transportation Grants *Funds boost Partnership Park and Falling Waters Trail*

LANSING – Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) today applauded the announcement of more than \$200,000 in federal transportation grants to fund two area projects. The total budget for the projects is \$346,947 which includes city and county funding. The grants are part of a \$10 million package of transportation grants intended to enhance the quality of life and create jobs throughout the state. The grants will fund 38 projects in more than 30 communities.

In Jackson, a gateway entrance will be constructed to the Partnership Park Neighborhood at Mechanic and Wesley Streets. The gateway will include masonry columns, decorative lighting and fences, accent sidewalk paving, and the development of accent landscaping beds. Decorative lighting will also be added in the Jackson Central Business District on Mechanic between Wesley and Morrell Streets, on Morrell Street between Francis and South Jackson streets and on South Jackson between Morrell and Washington Streets.

"I'm thrilled at the prospect of enhancing the entrance to the Partnership Park Neighborhood, as well as adding new lighting to the central business district," Schauer said. "These grants will allow the partners to create attractive streetscapes, along with improving the downtown area. Those kinds of improvements improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike."

The total project budget, which includes \$197,557 in federal funds and \$49,389 from the City of Jackson, is \$246,947. The project will complement a Michigan State Housing Development Authority Neighborhood Preservation grant. It will also continue the Armory Arts project investment funded in 2004 by the Governor's Cool Cities Initiative Catalyst Grant.

In addition, a \$70,000 grant will help fund the acquisition of the Lime Lake Causeway, which is the final property needed to complete county/state ownership of the Falling Waters Trail. The Lime Lake Causeway is approximately two miles long. When completed, the pristine and largely undeveloped trail will stretch more than 10 miles, providing a non-motorized trail from downtown Jackson to the Village of Concord. The total project budget of \$100,000 also includes \$25,000 from Jackson County and \$5,000 from the Jackson County Community Foundation.

"Funding these kinds of projects makes our local areas more attractive and livable, and promotes physical activity. They also create jobs and help grow the economy," Schauer said. "It's a win/win for everyone."

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Mark Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.